(a) whether it is a fact that in addition to Food Corporation of India, private sector companies are also purchasing foodgrains for storage in Government godowns;

(b) if so, the names of those companies and places where the purchase centres have been established by these companies;

(c) the amount to be paid to these companies for performing the purchase responsibility; and

(d) to what extend this amount is more or less when compared to the purchase expenditure of the F.C.I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, in addition to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Govt. Agencies, one Private Sector company namely National Collateral Management Services Ltd. (NCMSL), Mumbai is purchasing Paddy on behalf of FCI under Price Support Scheme during KMS 2005-06 and depositing rice with FCI after milling NCMSL is procuring paddy in Balaghat Revenue District of FCI, Jabalpur Division in Madhya Pradesh and in the Revenue Districts of Bolangir, Naupara, Balasore and Bhadrak in Orissa.

(c) The amount paid to NCMSL for performing purchase responsibilities is at par with the incidental charges fixed by Govt. of India for payment of State Agencies for KMS 2005-06.

(d) The amount paid to the Private Sector Company NCMSL is almost equivalent to the purchase expenditure of FCI and at par with the expenditure sanctioned to State Govt. Agencies.

**Wheat import**

†599. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken the decision to import wheat in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat to be imported;

(c) whether Government have obtained the information regarding prices of wheat in the international market while taking the decision to import wheat in the country;

(d) if so, the prices thereof; and

(e) whether wheat is to be imported before March in the country as per the decision, if not, the extent to which the delay would beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The STC has been permitted to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per information published by the International Grains Council (IGC) the export price of wheat as on 14.2.2006 in major wheat exporting countries is as under:—

| Name of country | Variety | Export price (f.o.b. US$/ton) |
|---|---|---|
| Argentina | (Up River) | 137 |
| Australia | ASW | 197 |
| Canada | 1 CWAD St. Law | 201 |
| USA | No. 2SRW (ord.) | 149 |

(e) The wheat is planned to arrive between end March to mid May, 2006.

**Revamping of sick sugar mills**

600. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up some action plan to revamp sick sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to focus on biogas-based co-generation of power in sugar industry to produce additional power in the country?